

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SSM-03 /085 W  
-----053927 142254Z /21

R 141059Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7233  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST UNN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5155

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, EG, IS  
SUBJECT: GAMASY REPLY TO BEGIN

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 5026, (B) JERUSALEM 1017

1. MICHAEL BAVLI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, GAVE US DETAILS JULY 13 OF THE BEGIN-GAMASY EXCHANGE OF LAST WEEKEND (REFTELS). BEGIN HAD ASKED GENERAL SIILASVUO TO CONVEY TO GAMASY ISRAEL'S CONCERN OVER EGYPTIAN EXCESSIVE TROOP STRENGTH IN ITS LIMITED FORCES ZONE. BEGIN SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY WHILE SIILASVUO TOOK NOTES

2. UPON SIILASVUO'S RETURN FROM CAIRO TWO DAYS LATER (JULY 10) HE CALLED ON BEGIN AGAIN AND GAVE HIM A CONFIDENTIAL

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LETTER OVER HIS (SIILASVUO'S) SIGNATURE. BAVLI GAVE US THE GIST OF THAT LETTER AS FOLLOWS:

3. "I MET WITH GENERAL GAMASY AND CONVEYED YOUR MESSAGE. HE ASKED ME TO TRANSMIT A REPLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. EGYPT WISHES TO REITERATE THAT IT IS FULLY PREPARED TO ADHERE TO THE

SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT. IT NOTES THAT ACCORDING TO THE SINAI FIELD MISSION, ISRAEL HAS ALSO BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS. IF THERE ARE MINOR VIOLATIONS ON EGYPT'S PART, THEY ARE NOT THE RESULT OF AN INTENTIONAL POLICY AND MOREOVER ARE MILITARILY INSIGNIFICANT. STRICT ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN EGYPT'S POLICY REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, AS HAS BEEN PROVEN IN THE PAST. EGYPT SHARES ISRAEL'S BELIEF IN THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE FOR RECONVENING GENEVA AND REPEATS THAT ALTHOUGH CERTAIN 'THINGS' MAY HAVE OCCURRED THEY WERE UNINTENTIONAL; NO SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THEM. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CREATE ATTITUDES OF TRUST AND GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES SO THAT A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE A SUCCESS. GAMASY THANKED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS GOOD WORDS AND STATED HIS CONVICTION THAT I (SIILASVUO) WILL BE ABLE TO CONVEY HIS SINCERITY AND GOOD WILL TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT."

4. COMMENT: IN THIS CONVERSATION, BAVLI SHOWED THE SAME DETACHMENT THAT HE HAD INDICATED WHEN DISCUSSING THE EXCHANGE TWO DAYS AGO (REFTEL A).  
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HE SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESS HAD BLOWN THE MATTER OUT OF PROPORTION AND DENIED THAT ANY PRECEDENT HAD BEEN CREATED. HE SUMMED UP THE MATTER BY SAYING THAT BEGIN HAD BEEN EXTREMELY POLITE AND CONCILIATORY IN HIS CAREFUL PHRASING OF HIS MESSAGE, THAT SIILASVUO WAS PROBABLY FAITHFUL TO HIS NOTES IN TRANSMITTING THE MESSAGE TO GAMASY, AND THAT THE WAR MINISTER'S REPLY WAS SIMILARLY POLITE. BABLI SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTEWORTHY HAD GAMASY'S TONE BEEN LESS CORDIAL THAN THE PRIME MINISTER'S. THE DCM RECEIVED A SIMILAR IMPRESSION OF THE MFA'S INTENTION TO TREAT THE ISSUE WITH CAUTION AND IN A LOW-KEY MANNER DURING AN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL SASSON AND YOSEF HADASS OF THE RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION, A MEETING AT WHICH BAVLI HAD ALSO BEEN PRESENT.

5. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE PAO JULY 11, BEGIN SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE EXCHANGE. HE DID NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE ITS IMPORTANCE, BUT FELT IT WAS A CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL

CLIMATE. HIS REACTION IS CLEARLY THAT OF A  
POLITICAL LEADER AS COMPARED TO THE CAUTION OF  
HIS PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 5026, 77 JERUSALEM 1017  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, EG, IS, US, (AL-GAMASY, MUHAMMAD ABD AL-GHANI), (BEGIN, MENAHEM)  
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**Type:** TE  
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